

the chronicle

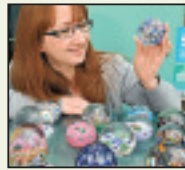
Ghostly goings-on as Crooked House gets starring role

– see page 6



Museum weighs in with collection of colourful glass

– see page 18



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Fresh claim made over fraudster

DETECTIVES have revealed they are to investigate yet more claims of fraud allegedly carried out by the disgraced former Tipton Town FC chairman Bill Williams.

Officers say they are probing a further three cases after the accountant was jailed for illegally pocketing more than £276,000 from the life insurance and pension policies of a murdered father.

Police spokesman Lee Page said: "We have had contact from three other people who claim they have been duped by Bill Williams."

Father-of-two Williams is just days into a five-and-a-half year prison term for taking cash owed to the daughter of murdered South Staffordshire company director Andrew Diack.

Williams, a grandfather of two of Chester Road, West Bromwich, spent the cash on luxury family holidays to the USA, season tickets at Aston Villa and lavish family parties.

● Heartless - Page 2

Club's annual extravaganza music to ears

MEMBERS of a Halesowen music club are celebrating after staging a big musical extravaganza.

More than 100 people attended Benjamin's Function Suite in Halesowen on Sunday for the annual Halas Homes Music Club summer show.

A packed audience was entertained with performances from a '40s sing-a-long group to tribute acts including Robbie Williams, David Essex and Abba. The bill also featured piano and mouth organ recitals and each act was backed by a band of professional musicians.

Rehearsals

The show followed weeks of rehearsals from members of the music club that supports adults with learning disabilities.

Alison Sayer from Halas Homes said: "It was fantastic to see everyone's hard work end in such a spectacular event. A particular high point was seeing someone perform who had watched the show last year and enjoyed it so much that he wanted to join the group."

The club is based at The Meeting Place in Wassell Road, Halesowen. Visit www.halashomes.co.uk or call Jill Roberts on 0121 550 8778 for more details.



Getting ready for their latest production from the Mayhem Theatre Group are, David Francis, back, and Mark Moran, right, as well as Allan Love from the Black Country ukulele players The B Cups

Mayhem again but this time it's at the double

AUDIENCES can get two for the price of one when a Halesowen theatre group puts on a pair of award-winning plays later this month.

Halesowen Athletics Club is being transformed into a makeshift theatre for the Mayhem Theatre Group double header, with performances taking place on June 27, 28 and 30.

Bar and Ger, written by Geraldine Anon, picked up gongs at last year's Worcester Festival and Eurovision spoof Good Evening Sarajevo, by Mark Moran, won awards this year.

Entertainment

"It made sense to put the two plays together as individually they're not quite long enough for a full night," Mark said.

"I'm pleased to say the B Cups, a group of Black Country ukulele players, will be providing entertainment in the interval."

It is the first time the plays are to be performed together and a licensed bar will be open on each night. Both productions are one act long.

Tickets for the shows are £4 each or £7 for two. Book by calling 0121 599 6549 or from Spex Maxiax, 358 Hagley Road, Halesowen.

Inquiry on park rape allegation

A RAPE inquiry was launched this week after a young woman complained she was attacked in a Dudley park.

A tent was set up at the scene as police carried out forensic tests.

Officers were called to Grange Park, near the Himley Street entrance, at around 1.40am on Monday following reports of the serious sexual assault.

Insp Mark Wilson, from the public protection unit, said the victim was being interviewed by officers to collect evidence.

"It is very early stages of the investigation. The scene had been preserved to protect any evidence," he said.

A resident of nearby Walters Row, who did not want to be named, said they had heard police cutting through the lock of the gate at the park entrance in Himley Street at around 5.20am on Monday.

Consultation on canal trust hub

PLANS for a new learning and access hub for Dudley Canal Trust will be discussed at a community consultation event this Saturday.

The Trust has gained financial support from Heritage Lottery Fund for the Hub, designed to teach visitors about the heritage of the canal tunnels and limestone mines.

At this weekend's consultation event people are invited to Todds End, off Birmingham New Road, anytime between 10am and 4pm to find out more about the project and share ideas and concerns. Representatives from the project team will be on hand to answer queries.

WATERFRONT IN TRADE ZONE BID

THE "half empty" Waterfront development next to Dudley's Merry Hill Centre has entered the race to become part of a new Black Country enterprise zone.

It would herald around 3,000 new jobs for the borough, it emerged last week. Low – or even free – business rates would be used to tempt newcomers to fill vacant accommodation.

While most enterprise zones in the country will be centred in one location, the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is proposing an alternative on split sites, so that each of the four boroughs – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – get a slice of the job-spinning benefits.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Les Jones, said the Waterfront area had been earmarked as the focus for the borough's part of the proposed Black Country enterprise zone.

Some of the Waterfront car parks could be redeveloped to pave the way for new offices

and industrial units. And some parts of Harts Hill in Brierley Hill may be included in an area of "relaxed planning" to allow industrial units to be built.

Firms that have quit the Waterfront include banking giant Egg and Virgin Media, leaving large parts of the complex available for immediate occupancy.

Councillor Jones said: "It's early days to be definitive about this.

Injection

"But the Waterfront is about 50 per cent unoccupied. This would give our part of the Black Country enterprise zone early gains because the buildings could be turned into jobs quickly.

"There would be reduced business rates – 100 per cent discounts – for five years."

Councillor Ken Turner, chairman of Dudley's regeneration, culture and adult education scrutiny committee, said the possible enterprise zone, together with a total of £250 million to £300m planned injection into new developments in Dudley and Brierley Hill town centres, was "great news for the borough".



Lord Lloyd Webber

Famous loco foundry may get Lloyd Webber funding

A FOUNDRY which pioneered the manufacture of steam locomotives is in line to benefit from a £2 million fund set up by English Heritage and Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Foster and Rastrick Foundry site in Lowndes Road, Stourbridge, has been named on a list of historic buildings being considered for the Challenge Fund, which supports efforts to save listed buildings.

The Grade II* building has been on English Heritage's register as being seriously at risk since 1999. It is rapidly falling into disrepair and is regularly targeted by vandals.

Plans to transform the site, into a medical complex were submitted by Quadrant Land Partnership and

approved last year, but work has yet to start. The new fund will mean that any building preservation trust or other volunteer groups willing to save country houses, churches and industrial buildings can apply for grants of up to £200,000.

"I am delighted that my foundation will be contributing to a solution for at least some of England's 1,600 Grade I and II* buildings at risk," said Lord Lloyd Webber.

The healthcare complex would be named The Lion Medical Centre in recognition of the foundry manufacturing the first steam locomotive to run commercially in America in 1829. It was known as the Stourbridge Lion.

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Prison for accountant who preyed on life's vulnerable

THE former chairman of Tipton Town FC has started a five-and-a-half year jail sentence for pocketing more than £276,000 from the life insurance and pension policies of a murdered father.

Accountant Bill Williams splashed the cash on luxury family holidays to the US, Aston Villa season tickets and lavish family parties.

The convicted fraudster set in motion plans to steal money owed to the two-year-old daughter of company director Andrew Diack just days after the 29-year-old was stabbed to death in a Wolverhampton pub.

Williams had listed himself as an executor of a life insurance and pension policy he helped to set up for father-of-one Mr Diack while working as his accountant.

Thousands were also ploughed into Tipton Town FC, while the rest was spent on clearing debts and office improvements for his Dudley-based accountancy business.

Paying

Now it can be revealed Williams also ripped off pensioners Ronald and Sheila Haynes for £97,000 in a separate fraud. He was paying that money back at a rate of £2,000 a month but around £50,000 is still owed to the Walsall couple, who had enlisted the father of two as an accountant.

"He's taken our entire life savings and ruined us," said Mrs Haynes.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, Judge Amjad Nawaz described Williams as a man who "preyed on the vulnerable" for his own gain, telling him: "You have committed crime after crime, adding misery upon misery. It was behaviour just to line your own pockets."

Williams, of Chester Road, West Bromwich, admitted two charges of fraud at a previous hearing.

Disgraced grandfather conned elderly couple

WHEN Ronald Haynes was diagnosed with dementia, his loving wife Sheila decided to enlist the help of an accountant to handle their considerable life savings.

It was a decision she felt was necessary to secure their future.

But unfortunately for the Walsall family, the accountant they employed was Bill Williams, owner of Dudley-based firm Williams & Co, who has now started a lengthy prison term for a £276,000 fraud against Wolverhampton murder victim Andrew Diack.

The disgraced 59-year-old targeted Mr and Mrs Haynes in a similar crime, pocketing the couple's £97,000 life savings.

"He's taken our entire life savings and ruined us," said Mrs Haynes. "I'm just not the same person any more. I've been suicidal because of what he has done."

The grandmother-of-seven, who has two great-grandchildren, said Williams had been recommended to her son Tim by a father at her grandson's football team, the Black Country Bullets.

Account

"When Ron was diagnosed in 2008, I was advised by doctors to get power of attorney and to get an accountant to help out with that," said the 66-year-old Mrs Haynes.

Williams, of Chester Road, West Bromwich, advised the retired carer worker to take £97,000 from a series of bank accounts, close them down and hand over cheque books and account details to him for money to be consolidated into one account.

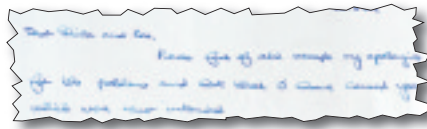
"At the end of 2008 I asked him for some of our money for a holiday but he never came up with it," said the mother-of-two, whose 76-year-old husband previously owned Ronald Haynes Transport.

"In 2009, we were having the house refurbished. I got in touch with Bill but again, there was nothing. Just more excuses."

Mrs Haynes sought the advice of her bank, who also involved the police. After being confronted, Williams agreed to pay back £2,000 a month to avoid charges.



Victim - Andrew Diack and girlfriend Rachel Evans



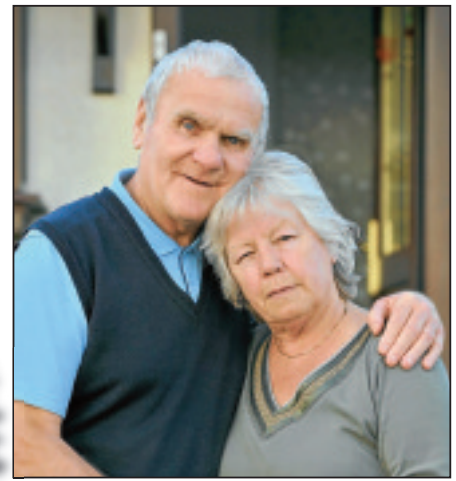
The letter of apology sent from Bill Williams to the Haynes

Since August 2009, in the region of £40,000 has been repaid but there still remains a debt of more than £50,000.

Around the same time, Wolverhampton businessman Andrew Diack was celebrating the news that he and his partner, Rachel Evans, were expecting their first child.

Former Tipton Town FC chairman Williams had earlier helped Mr Diack, a co-director of Featherstone-based Spray Tanker Services, form a life insurance and pension policy, listing himself as an administrator of the two policies.

But in February 2009, 29-year-old Mr Diack was killed in a knife attack at the



Conned of £97,000 - Sheila and Ron Haynes from Walsall

Flying Dutchman pub in Wolverhampton.

Just days later, Williams visited the family home on Stafford Road, Fordhouses, and took documents from Miss Evans that would net him the £276,000 payout from the two policies.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, Mr Hugh O'Brien-Quinn, prosecuting, said father-of-two Williams admitted defrauding a Bupa life insurance policy worth £250,000 and an Aviva pensions policy for £26,000, which were both due to be paid to Megan, who was born just 10 days after Mr Diack's death.

The court heard that Williams had squandered the cash on luxury holidays,

Aston Villa season tickets and lavish parties. Thousands was also ploughed into Tipton Town FC.

The grandfather of two was jailed for three years in 1996 for stealing £140,000 from clients. Ten years earlier, he was locked up for three years for stealing more than £100,000 from a firm.

Mr Andrew Mitchinson, for Williams, said: "Bill Williams is an enigma."

"On one side is the respectable businessman, father to two children and grandfather to two grandchildren.

"Unfortunately, when you turn that coin, you find a serial cheat, serial liar and serial thief."

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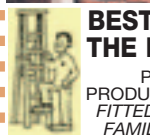


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£3m of fake goods are seized over 12 months

Trainee keeper Sam steps towards his big cat dream



Trainee Dudley Zoo keeper Sam Grove with his certificate

TRAINEE zoo keeper Sam Grove has passed his first animal care studies course with flying colours at Dudley Zoo.

The 18-year-old of Norton, Stourbridge, joined the attraction two years ago and has now gained a qualification which is the equivalent of an National Vocational Qualification Level One.

He will now begin a two-year advanced national certificate in the management of zoo animals, which will qualify him as a fully-fledged zoo keeper. Before becoming a trainee, Sam worked part time in the zoo's gift shop and also helped out at the car park.

He said: "The course was about basic

care and learning how to look after animals at the zoo.

"While completing it, I worked at the farm, and with birds, primates and ungulates," Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "Sam has proved himself as a zoo apprentice and is a most suitable candidate to become a fully qualified keeper."

"He is a very willing worker, who is committed to his role and has shown good communications skills as a member of our very dedicated team."

Once qualified the teenager hopes to work with big cats and primates.

The zoo is open daily from 10am with last admission at 4pm. The entrance fee for adults is £12.50, including a conservation donation.

ALMOST £3 million worth of fake goods were confiscated by trading standards officers in Sandwell last year, including up to £2 million of counterfeit designers clothes.

Officers also took legal action to seize cash in 12 UK bank accounts and one bank account in Spain, as well as a house in the UK, an apartment in Spain, land in Brazil and over £13,000 of jewellery.

Among goods confiscated between January and July 2010 were 2,927 pairs of headphones worth up to £223,000, a total of 3,000 video games worth up to £440,736 and 600 items of fake designer clothing including Karen Millen dresses and UGG hats worth up to £2m.

Prosecution

In the later part of the year, 1,000 Nintendo DS games worth up to £18,000 were seized, along with 1,500 other video games and 40 Xbox 360 consoles worth up to £50,000.

Once fake goods have been picked up trading standards officers can apply to freeze suspect bank accounts under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Following a successful prosecution a confiscation order can be awarded, which means the guilty party has to pay back the money they have illegally obtained. This could mean they have to sell homes, land or cars.

This year's seizure figures have gone up from just £1 million last year.

Choirs in harmony to help boost Action for Children

TWO Halesowen choirs will come together for a special charity performance.

Voices in Harmony and their young people's choir Pure Harmony will raise the roof of Hasbury Methodist Church, on Albert Road, at 7pm, on Saturday (June 18).

All proceeds will go to the church's child-care charity, Action for Children. Tickets are £6 and available from Sylvia Smith on 0121 501 1020.



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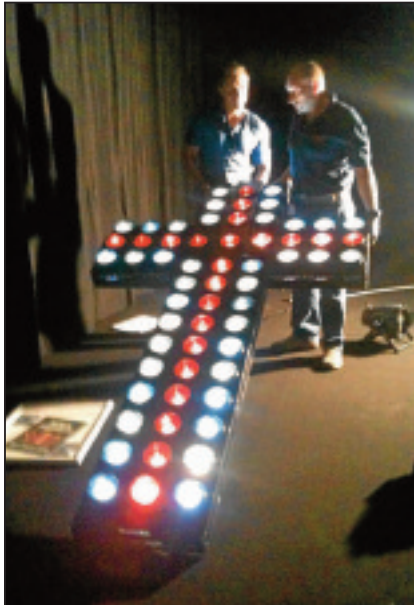
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Keyleigh Bowater, aged 18, of Walsall, and Kalina Balajewska, 17, of West Bromwich, in the show at Wolverhampton Art Gallery



The giant crucifix, once used by Black Sabbath, goes on show in Birmingham

Heavy metal's crossover into the world of fashion

OUTLANDISH hairstyles, denim, chains and T-shirts rocked the catwalk at a heavy metal-themed fashion show in the Black Country.

The Home of Metal event was to promote an exhibition of the same name launching throughout the region.

It runs at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery from today (June 16) until September 25.

The exhibition will celebrate the Black Country's place as the home of heavy metal music and will feature vintage T-shirts,

archival imagery and films from bands such as Black Sabbath and Napalm Death. A fashion show on June 8 at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, watched by more than 100 people, featured 30 models parading outfits made by fashion and textile design students from the city university's BA (Hons) fashion and textiles students.

Fashion and textiles lecturer Michael Rutley said: "The hard work, effort and energy put in by everyone was impressive."

Over at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, a giant crucifix used by city

rockers Black Sabbath is the centrepiece of its exhibition. The cross, which featured in Black Sabbath's stage set for the 1981-82 Mob Rules World Tour, is 8ft high and lit with 60 lights. It was found in a back garden and acquired by music store Professional Music Technology, at Lawley Midway in the city.

For further information and to book tickets for the Home of Metal exhibition visit 0121 3031966.

See dudley.gov.uk/museums for more details of related events in the borough.

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MASSIVE STOCK HUGE SAVINGS

Ghostly goings-on as Crooked House set to have a starring role in new film

IT has been famous across the Midlands for hundreds of years for its slanting appearance and resident ghosts.

But now the Crooked House pub in Himley is set to attract a new legion of fans – as the star of its own movie. Los Angeles based film-maker Mark Todd, who comes from Wednesbury, has written a screenplay called *The Crooked House*.

The ghost story was inspired by the pub's history and Mr Todd, aged 46, believes American audiences will love it.

He said: "There is a real

fascination with Englishness and the feedback I have received so far has been great."

It has interested an American production company and filming should start in October.

It tells the story of an LA-based English film director who buys the Crooked House and moves in with his American wife.

Soon ghosts start to appear and set off a chain of events, climaxing in a dramatic ending.

While shooting the movie he will also make a documentary about ghosts in the Dudley area – looking in



Film fame – The Crooked House pub and owners, brothers Wayne and Jason Penn moved to LA five years ago after marrying his actress wife Ashley. He said: "On a



visit home last year we went to the pub and thought what a great location it would make for a film.

"The more I told people about it, the better the idea seemed, so I got I started to put the wheels in motion."

He contacted owners Wayne and Jason Penn, who admit they needed "no persuading" to take part.

The Crooked House is said to have two ghosts – a young girl referred to as Polly, and a barmaid.

Wayne said: "The pub is well known across the world for the ghosts here and I'm sure audiences will enjoy it."

CHRONICLE REPORTERS



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Coachwork team lines up new work



The restored coach, renamed Chaffinch, seen in all its former glory

A RESTORATION team at Kidderminster's Severn Valley Railway is already lining up new projects after returning an old British Railways coach to its former glory.

It was the first external contract completed by SVR Carriage Contracts, which was launched last year to take on work from outside the railway and bringing in extra cash for the attraction.

The former British Railways (Western Region) auto coach, dating from 1953, has now been taken back to the Dean Forest Railway, in Gloucestershire.

Stripping roof

It was given a new coat of paint, in British Railways crimson livery of the 1960s, and christened 'Chaffinch' at the request of its owner.

But the restoration team are not resting on their laurels and already have a number of projects in the pipeline to keep them busy over the coming months.

The three-strong team will be working on one of the railway's own vehicles next – a diesel multiple unit carriage dating from the 1960s.

They will be stripping the roof and side of the carriage of its old paintwork and giving it a new coat.

Repairs will also be carried out on the gangway which connects the coaches together with new pins fitted.

The project is expected to take around

two months to complete.

The restoration team researches each train and carriage it works on to ensure it has the exact original colour schemes.

The department, which has been repairing vehicles for more than 30 years, started taking on external work last year.

It had previously only

worked on trains and carriages operated by the railway itself.

Spokesman Shaun Parsons said: "We were really pleased with how the work on the auto

carriage turned out and are now looking towards new projects.

"We are a dedicated team and it is a pleasure working on these vehicles."

Carriage fitters Chris Lawley and Tim Davis finish work on the 1953 auto coach which has been carefully restored at the Severn Valley Railway



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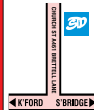
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'Buy back' holidays unpopular

JUST six workers at Sandwell Council have taken advantage of a scheme to "buy back" extra leave – which the authority had hoped could save £5 million in wages.

The council's 5,941 workers were each offered the chance to purchase 10 extra days off under the plans, which were announced in January and came into force two months ago.

If all full-time staff took up the offer it would save the authority a whopping £5,251,865.

Council bosses said the scheme would also benefit employees by enabling them to have a "better work life balance". However, just half a dozen members have opted to take it up.

Councillor Mahood Hussain, council cabinet member for improvement and efficiency, said: "There have been around half a dozen takers so far but it was only just introduced on April 1. It won't be easy to get a realistic picture for quite some time."

MP takes up battle in fire stations axe row

First chapter for crucial shop



All smiles at the opening of the first Mary Stevens Hospice book shop – from left, Ridgewood High and The Ridge Primary pupils with lottery field manager Diane Moore, book shop manager Hilary Bullock, radio presenter Jenny Wilkes and chairman Gerald Wood

FUNDRAISERS and volunteers started a new chapter for a Black Country charity as they helped celebrate the opening of its first book shop.

Stourbridge-based Mary Stevens Hospice has opened the first floor book store in its flagship premises in the town's high street.

Staff at the hospice say the store, in the former Mark and Moody stationery shop, is crucial to help plug gaps in its funding during the tough economic times.

Radio WM presenter Jenny Wilkes helped cut the ribbon at the book store

along with pupils from Ridgewood High School and The Ridge Primary School, both in Wollaston, Stourbridge.

The book store has been funded thanks to a £10,000 donation by long term supporter and Brierley Hill businessman Mike Brown.

It is based in the first floor of the store and new shelving, flooring and other building work and renovations were completed for the opening on May 27.

The next stage of the plan is to open a coffee shop in the open space at the front of the floor by Christmas.

Mary Stevens Hospice needs around £2 million a year to fund care for patients.

PLANS to merge two Midland fire stations may put public safety at risk, firefighters say.

The move would leave only one fire engine at a new station and see the loss of 28 frontline firefighter posts, they claim.

Halesowen MP James Morris has voiced concern about closing Cradley Heath and Halesowen fire stations and opening one station as a replacement.

Plans to merge were discussed two years ago but put on hold after public concern. The service says plans were revived and revised after funding uncertainty. There would be one crew at the station instead of two originally proposed.

Andy Dennis of the Fire Brigades Union said 96 frontline jobs went this year. He added: "These are deep cuts to the front line and show the Government promise of no cuts to frontline public services was worthless."

Oppose

The number of firefighters available to crew fire engines for immediate callout has been reduced to dangerous levels."

He said at least two fully staffed fire engines were needed to safely deal with a house fire or collision.

The service says there will not be compulsory firefighter redundancies but others could not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, Tory MP Mr Morris said "I will also be writing to the fire authority seeking clarification on a number of issues. In particular, seeking guarantees that service levels will be maintained, as safety for everyone in Halesowen and Rowley Regis is of paramount importance."

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Hosepipe ban likely unless the rain falls

Victim's road safety campaign

WHEN keen runner Andy Taylor was mown down by a hit-and-run driver in Dudley, he feared he may never walk again.

The father-of-two was left with a broken hip and pelvis and was in hospital for six weeks. Despite several witnesses, the person responsible was never brought to justice.

But thanks to physiotherapy and determination, he has fought his way to a relatively normal life.

The 42-year-old said: "I was at such a low. I can remember lying in the road and wondering if I would ever walk again. The doctors put me on anti-depressants. But I wanted to carry on."

Mr Taylor had completed a number of fun runs before the crash but now struggles to walk and needs regular painkillers. It is thought the black Toyota Celica was travelling at between 50 and 60 mph on the 30mph limit road.

Routine

After three operations, with more on the way, he is back at work as a sales assistant.

He goes to watch his two boys, aged 11 and 15, play football and can perform routine daily chores.

Reliving the crash, which happened in Mill Street in November 2007, he said: "It was coming so quickly that I could not get out of the way and it ploughed into me."

Mr Taylor, of Vimy Road in Wednesbury, is spearheading a campaign for improvements on Wood Green Road, which is crossed by hundreds of pupils from Wood Green High School and Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School every day.



Andy Taylor, who was seriously injured in Dudley, is seen with his son Bradley, aged 11

SEVERN TRENT has warned that the Midlands needs a prolonged spell of rainfall to remove the threat of a summer hosepipe ban.

The water company - which supplies eight million customers across England and Wales - has confirmed there is a likelihood of restrictions to supply.

GMB union bosses have claimed a hosepipe ban is likely within a week unless there is persistent rain.

It blamed the company's new computer system but this was denied by Severn Trent Water.

Last month the water company missed its leakage target, blaming severe winter weather for a rise in the number of broken pipes - but said it was the first missed leakage target for five years.

Return

Amy Weiser of Severn Trent Water said: "There is an increasing likelihood of water restrictions unless we see a return to seasonal average rainfall within the near future. The situation is under constant review and no decision has been taken."

"Parts of the Midlands have seen the second driest spring since records began. The combination of the long dry spell and increased customer demand has put pressure on supply resources."

"The introduction of any major computer system is challenging, but we refute entirely the suggestion that the current water resources situation is a result of the introduction of the new system or mismanagement."

The Met Office said overall England and Wales had 45 per cent of the long-term average rainfall for March, April and May. Met Office chiefs said there was little sign of relief over the next few months.

Patients to Link up for talks on service improvements

DUDLEY patients can discuss what improvements to services they would like to see at a Dudley Local Involvement Network (LINK) event on June 20.

Dudley LINK staff will be at Kingswinford Library, Market Street, Kingswinford, 10am-2pm to chat about concerns or issues people would like to raise.



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thechronicle**Archer to hit the target**

JEFFREY ARCHER'S courtroom drama Beyond Reasonable Doubt returns to Bridgnorth's Theatre on the Steps for a second three-day run.

It opened last week, from Thursday to Saturday, and recommences tonight until Saturday (June 18).

The first half leaves the audience guessing about the guilt of the defendant. The second is a love story which details the events leading up to the trial, with a twist at the end.

The cast includes several members from the cast of last November's sell-out production of 'Allo 'Allo.

Jan Hudson and Iain Reddihough take on the roles of Sir David and Lady Metcalfe - a quantum leap from the husband and wife team of Rene and Edith in 'Allo 'Allo. Prosecuting counsel is Richard Aston with John Britton for the defence. Tickets: The Box Office in the TIC at Bridgnorth Library, 01746 763257.

Quarry chiefs warned as dust hits homes**Tributes paid to veteran Cyril, 97**

TRIBUTES have been paid to a much loved Midland Second World War veteran who has died.

Cyril Ashley, aged 97, gave talks to pupils at Alexandra High School in Tipton about his experiences during the war.

Mr Ashley, from Claverley, died on June 4 in a Bridgnorth care home. In September 1944 Mr Ashley, who served with the 1st Airborne Division on Horsa gliders and as an officer in the 7th Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, was involved in the failed Market Garden operation to seize a bridge in the Dutch town of Arnhem. He was captured after leading his platoon through a country lane when they were ambushed.

At one of his school talks he told pupils that platoons took turns to be in the front, the most dangerous position. "We had just got to the back when we were ambushed by the Germans and every single man in the front platoon was killed. It was so nearly us," he said.

After the war he married Elsie, "the loveliest Wren in the British Legion". They had two sons and five grandchildren. His funeral was being held today (June 16) in Claverley.

Hilary Brown, organiser of the school's veterans club, said: "He was a lovely man with a fabulous sense of humour, and was popular with the children."



Cyril Ashley with pupils Laura Summers, right, and Sam Bates at Alexandra High School

OWNERS of a quarry in Dudley have been warned to stop dust swamping nearby homes after a businessman said his £1.2 million house had been shrouded in a "blizzard" of grit.

Millionaire Tony Whittaker, owner of the Delph Road Industrial Estate in Brierley Hill and a property developer, lives next door to the quarry, run by FG Davis, in Enville Road, Wall Heath.

He called out officers from South Staffordshire District Council's environmental health department last Friday after dust clouds swept across homes.

"It was like a blizzard," said 60-year-old Mr Whittaker. He has pledged £2,000 to finance professional consultants preparing the case against proposals from FG Davis for a second sand and gravel quarry.

"Nobody would be able to put their washing out, cars are covered in the dust and I dread to think about children inhaling it," he added.

Measures

Steve Winterford, chief executive of South Staffordshire District Council, said: "The quarry hadn't put down dust suppression, which is basically water to prevent it blowing away. We have seen the operator and told them they need to step up their act on this, which they agreed to do."

FG Davis owner Michael Davis said: "We are putting measures in place to make sure the dust is dealt with as soon as possible."

Dave Tyler, aged 64, of Victoria Street, Wall Heath, claims to have found Japanese knotweed growing at the Enville Road quarry.

Spencer Davies, director of FGD Ltd, a sister company of FG Davis, said: "We were not aware of Japanese knotweed growing here but will look at that."

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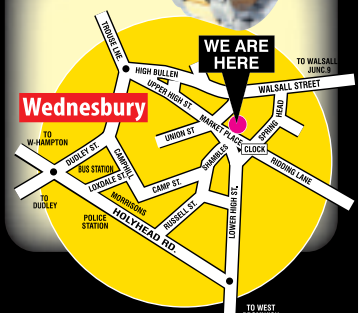
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fireplacefactorydirect**www.fireplacefactorydirect.co.uk****thechronicle****Cyclist is heading for bump at level crossing**

The cyclist, circled, heads straight for the crossing barrier as it comes down

THIS dramatic image shows the risks taken at one of the most notorious level crossings in the Black Country.

This cyclist is seen riding head first into a descending barrier at Langley Green crossing in Oldbury.

The image is among a number released by Network Rail to mark Level Crossing Awareness Day last Thursday.

There were eight near misses at Langley Green last year including two incidents where vehicles were hit by barriers and a

third when a van tried to 'zig-zag' between barriers.

Network Rail route director Jo Kaye said: "Langley Green crossing is a particular problem for us."

"We often have to stop the road barriers lowering because somebody is making a last minute dash across."

"Pedestrians and cyclists are just as guilty as car and lorry drivers, as our latest CCTV clips show."

"Stopping the barriers in mid-sequence results in delays to trains and possibly

missed connections for passengers," she added.

"Vehicles weaving round lowering barriers or speeding through them pose a danger to themselves and other road users and pedestrians."

"There is also a real possibility that they will collide with the barrier."

The cyclist pictured was injured by the barrier at Langley Green in March. Elsewhere in the Black Country there were eight other near-misses in 2010 while Staffordshire had 28 incidents.

Failing ward put in special measures

A FAILING ward at Sandwell Hospital has been placed in special measures due to concerns over the standards of care.

High staff absences, a rising number of falls and "patient dignity issues" were among the concerns associated with the ward.

The decision was made a month after the Newton 4 ward - which cares for stroke patients -

was named as one of seven causing concern at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

The 30-bed unit was placed in special measures by hospital bosses last week, after standards failed to improve.

Agency

Jessamy Kinghorn, spokeswoman for the hospital trust, said: "In March we had some vacancies on the ward, sickness

absence was very high and we were very reliant on bank and agency staff."

"We had some concerns that patients need assessments and audits weren't being carried out consistently, fall rates had risen and there were some concerns raised about dignity."

"We made changes and gave the ward more support but it wasn't improving quickly enough," she added.

Rooftop success

ORME'S Roofing has been named as the best local trader in the Midlands by recommendation website Which? Local.

Founded by Shane Orme in Hagley, Stourbridge, the business has been praised by its customers for its first-class workmanship, efficiency, and for consistently going the extra mile.

Orme's Roofing now joins seven other finalists for Which? Local Business of the Year. The overall winner will be announced on June 23 in a London ceremony.

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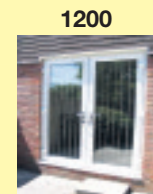


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thechronicle

Weighing in with a fine collection of glass art

PAPERWEIGHTS have been taking centre stage at a Dudley exhibition.

Broadfield House Glass Museum in Compton Drive, Kingswinford hosted its annual Paperweight Day on Saturday.

Scottish glassmaker Alastair MacIntosh was the star attraction at this year's event and demonstrated his paperweight-making skills.

He studied at Edinburgh College of Art and

went on to become a designer at Cathness Glass. There was also a wide range of paperweights from some of the country's leading dealers, including Bob Hall and Just Glass, on sale at the event.

Popular

Councillor David Stanley said: "The Paperweight Day is one of the most popular events held at the glass museum and visitors come from all over the country to attend."



Demonstrator Kari Moodie with some of the museum's paperweights

Hundreds expected at festival celebrations

HUNDREDS of visitors are expected to descend on a Black Country park for its annual summer festival this weekend. This year's Wordsley Festival will take place in King George V Park, off Bells Lane, on Saturday.

The event has been organised by the Wordsley Festival Group which has drafted in events management company Stourbridge and Black Country Events.

Festival organiser Mick Davies said he wanted the event to replicate the success of the Wordsley Carnivals of the 1980s and

1990s. The carnival raised around £150,000 for good causes in more than 20 years.

"Ideally we'd love to start giving money back to charity but it is not possible at the moment but the event doesn't make a profit," he said.

"The money that we make is going to make sure we can fund the next year's event. We have had grants in the past but they were only for one year so we have to bring in the funding ourselves."

High-flying stunt riders and shows from popular children's television characters are

among the treats in store for families attending the big day.

The festival curtain-raiser was the Wordsley charity Fun Run held yesterday (Wednesday) around a two-mile course in the park. Runners were able to nominate their own charity.

On the Saturday, Fifi and the Flower Tots TV characters Fifi and Bumble will be around during the event. Stuntman Flyin' Ryan Griffiths will be staging a motorcycle stunt show. The event dates back to the original Wordsley Galain 1946.

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Shelters for bikes at station

TWO cycle shelters will be installed at Sandwell and Dudley station.

Transport group Centro's application to Sandwell Council for shelters at the Bromford Road station were approved by officers under delegated authority.

They are part of a wider scheme for shelters at stations throughout the West Midlands.

Centro will remove plants and shrubs to make room for the dark blue steel shelters.

They will go on a concrete plinth on green space next to the Park and Ride entrance at the station.

Group to look at health

AN INDEPENDENT watchdog group is being set up in Dudley to help improve health and social care.

Residents, community groups, and voluntary organisations have been invited to share their views on plans for group.

It is expected to be up and running next year.

Dudley Council and Dudley Council for Voluntary Service will host an event at Dudley College's Broadway campus on July 7 from 9.30am to 1pm. For further details and to book a place at the event send emails to vintro.mallhi@dudley.gov.uk

Man behind iconic carpet advert retires

A LEADING figure in Kidderminster's carpet industry and one of the key people behind a famous advertising campaign has retired after nearly 50 years.

Mike Hardiman, aged 64, stood down this month as chief executive of the town's Carpet Foundation, which he set up in 1999.

The foundation, which gives out information to help people choose the right carpet, has grown to become an industry standard which is now backed by top manufacturers and also 900 independent retailers.

Previously, Mr Hardiman worked for Brintons Carpets for 35 years holding the post of personnel manager from 1971 to 1992. He later moved into advertising for the firm and helped to develop the iconic 1993 campaign where models wore carpet dresses designed by Vivienne Westwood and photographed by David Bailey.

Trainee

Mr Hardiman was also president of Kidderminster Chamber of Commerce during 1988 and 1989 after previously serving as vice-chairman.

He has lived in Bewdley for more than 30 years, and said he was "immensely proud" of his career but had decided the time was right to step down. He plans to spend more time with his family, wife Sonia, 63, children Caroline, 36, and Jonathan, 34, and 19-month-old granddaughter Isabelle.

Mr Hardiman, originally from Birmingham and a pupil at Kings Norton Grammar School, started his career in 1964 when he was taken on as a trainee manager by Brintons Carpets.

The firm sent him on a HND course at Kidderminster College



Looking back - Mike Hardiman with a photograph of one of the advertising campaign dresses made from carpet

and later to Aston University to learn management studies.

And in 1971 at the age of just 25, he was appointed personnel manager for the firm - which then employed around 2,650 people.

"It was very different in those days. Kidderminster was the centre of carpet manufacture and around 17,000 people were employed in the industry," he said.

Mr Hardiman remained in the post until 1992 when he was asked to take over a very different aspect of the company.

"The managers at the time

decided the firm needed to take a more aggressive marketing policy. Because of my knowledge of the firm I was asked to become involved in the advertising.

"I was involved in the campaign where the models wore carpet dresses made by Vivienne Westwood."

Mr Hardiman left the firm after 35 years to help set up the Carpet Foundation. "At the time it was a gamble but one which I am very proud to say paid off."

"Getting so many retailers involved was a massive success."

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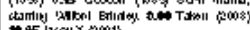
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Friday

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ITV1 6.00 *Dynasty*, 6.30 *Loraine*, 8.25 *The Jeremy Kyle Show*, 10.30 *This Morning*, 11.55 *Richard and Judy*, 12.30 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, 1.30 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, 2.30 *Secret Garden*, 3.30 *Regional News*, 4.30 *Midweek Murder*, 5.30 *Midweek Murder*, 6.30 *Dr. Dineen*, 7.00 *Regional News*, 7.30 *Weather*, 8.30 *ITV News*, 9.00 *Emmerdale*, 9.30 *Coronation Street*, 10.00 *Coronation Street*, 10.30 *Coronation Street*, 11.00 *Paul O'Grady*, 11.30 *ITV News*, 12.00 *Regional News*, 12.30 *Weather*, 1.30 *Regional News*, 2.00 *ITV News*, 2.30 *Flint No Regrets* (2007) *Romantic comedy with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart*, 3.00 *ITV News*, 3.30 *ITV News*, 4.00 *ITV News*, 4.30 *ITV News*, 5.00 *ITV News*, 5.30 *The Whole Truth* (2006) *Crime thriller*, 6.00 *ITV News*, 6.30 *ITV News*, 7.00 *ITV News*, 7.30 *ITV News*, 8.00 *ITV News*, 8.30 *ITV News*, 9.00 *ITV News*, 9.30 *ITV News*, 10.00 *ITV News*, 10.30 *ITV News*, 11.00 *ITV News*, 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Riding with Robert 6:30 *Wright* 6:45 *Extensive*
Moments (R) 7:00 *Home Land* 7:15 *Home*
Order (R) 7:30 *Home and Away* 7:45 *Neighbours*
7:55 *The Verdict* Show 8:05 *Inside Hollywood*
8:15 *20/20* 8:30 *TV's Greatest* 8:45 *TV's*
drama, starring Anthony Quinn 9:00 *S* *News* 9:15
Weather 9:30 *Neighbours* (R) 9:40 *Home and*
Away (R) 9:50 *CSI: Miami* 10:00 *News* 10:10
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and Trailers 10:40 *S* *News* 10:50 *Cable* 11:00 *Low*
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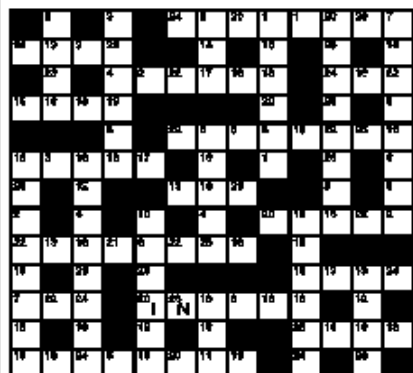
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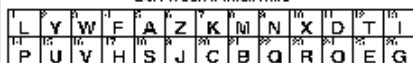
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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- QUICK CROSSWORDS
- CODEWORD SUDOKU
- WORD PUZZLER
- WORD SEARCH
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SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

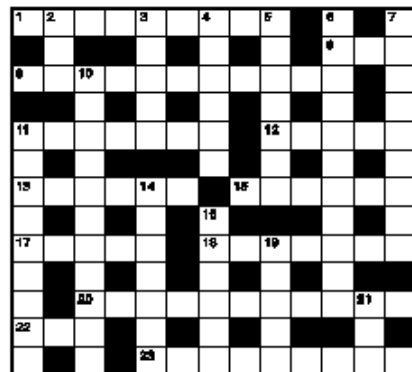
- | | |
|---|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1. If you want to make it, you will (6) | 2. Time for some other adventures (3) |
| 8. Fabulous bird in a forest (6) | 3. Pull out on fish, we hear (6) |
| 9. Was under a house on the pavement (6,6) | 4. This can normally succeed (6) |
| 11. Collect in the bags, perhaps (7) | 5. A fabulous swimmer (6) |
| 12. Buy one a drink for medical purposes? (6) | 6. Order a gift to members (7,4) |
| 13. Flag officer? (6) | 7. Made one's mark as a runner? (6) |
| 15. Staff provided to help the disabled (6) | 10. Her's after a time with a ship of leather? (6) |
| 17. Sister returned to show an old card game (6) | 11. Large note turned out to be a note (6) |
| 18. Look the meeting and was covered off triumphantly (7) | 14. Attempt to pocket a ball, but lose one's nerve? (2,2,4) |
| 20. A case perhaps for handling (6) | 16. A shipping company, we hear, to make a profit (6) |
| 22. A word in Latin (6) | 19. Hy train a ship (6) |
| 23. He is known in society for eating for money (8) | 21. The note that has been deducted before (4) |

Quick Clues:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Inhabitable (8) | 2. Decay (3) |
| 8. Passes (3) | 3. Draw out (5) |
| 9. Exclamation (11) | 4. Exclaim (6) |
| 11. Unique (7) | 5. Grown (7) |
| 12. Exult (6) | 6. Content (11) |
| 13. Haste (6) | 7. Measure (8) |
| 15. Lower (6) | 10. Unusually (11) |
| 17. Mark of omission (6) | 11. Instruction (8) |
| 18. Fervent (7) | 14. Object (7) |
| 20. Doubtfulness (11) | 16. Scanty (6) |
| 22. Faint (8) | 19. Precede (6) |
| 23. Lament (8) | 21. Lenny (4) |

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 10 Across: 1 Down: 2 Across: 3 Down: 4 Across: 5 Down: 6 Across: 7 Down: 8 Across: 9 Down: 10 Across: 11 Down: 12 Across: 13 Down: 14 Across: 15 Down: 16 Across: 17 Down: 18 Across: 19 Down: 20 Across: 21 Down: 22 Across: 23 Down: 24 Across: 25 Down: 26 Across: 27 Down: 28 Across: 29 Down: 30 Across: 31 Down: 32 Across: 33 Down: 34 Across: 35 Down: 36 Across: 37 Down: 38 Across: 39 Down: 40 Across: 41 Down: 42 Across: 43 Down: 44 Across: 45 Down: 46 Across: 47 Down: 48 Across: 49 Down: 50 Across: 51 Down: 52 Across: 53 Down: 54 Across: 55 Down: 56 Across: 57 Down: 58 Across: 59 Down: 60 Across: 61 Down: 62 Across: 63 Down: 64 Across: 65 Down: 66 Across: 67 Down: 68 Across: 69 Down: 70 Across: 71 Down: 72 Across: 73 Down: 74 Across: 75 Down: 76 Across: 77 Down: 78 Across: 79 Down: 80 Across: 81 Down: 82 Across: 83 Down: 84 Across: 85 Down: 86 Across: 87 Down: 88 Across: 89 Down: 90 Across: 91 Down: 92 Across: 93 Down: 94 Across: 95 Down: 96 Across: 97 Down: 98 Across: 99 Down: 100 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New Picanto: Small, but with some extra muscle

THE new, second-generation Kia Picanto goes on sale in the UK tomorrow and sets out to prove that small cars can offer more of everything without ballooning in size and cost.

Kia's smallest car offers stronger performance with lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions than its predecessor, more style with higher quality, more space and steps forward in safety and luxury.

The car goes on sale with new 1.0- and 1.25-litre Kappa-family petrol engines, which deliver fuel consumption improvements of up to 8.5mpg with CO2 reductions of as much as 15g/km.

The larger engine is available with Kia's EcoDynamics fuel-saving technology – an Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) engine stop/start system, or, alternatively with an automatic transmission.

The three-cylinder 1.0-litre unit has a combined fuel economy of 67.3mpg. The 1.25-litre four-cylinder version of the Kappa engine is offered in three guises. In standard form it averages 60.1mpg. With a four-speed automatic transmission fuel consumption is 53.3mpg. Finally, there is the EcoDynamics version with fuel consumption at 65.7mpg.

Column

The Kia Picanto five-door has four trim grades, badged 1, 1 Air, 2 and 3. Standard features include body coloured bumpers, mirrors and door handles, electric front windows, Radio/CD player, trip computer and an immobiliser. A height-adjustable driver's seat and tilt-adjustable steering column provide driver comfort and there are six airbags. A 60:40 split folding rear seat allows rear luggage space to grow up to 870 litres (VDA).

The Picanto 1 Air provides an option for those customers who want air conditioning. Picanto 2 adds additional equipment such as Bluetooth connectivity, with voice recognition and full iPod control with USB & AUX ports – both of which can be operated by the steering wheel controls – and electrically operated, heated and folding door mirrors with integrated LED side repeaters.

As with all new Kias, a seven-year or 100,000 miles fully transferable warranty is standard on every new Picanto.

Under chief design officer Peter Schreyer, Kia has undergone a design metamorphosis in recent years. The new Picanto sees a change of direction. Where the previous model was regarded as "cute" and "femi-

There's a different look to the Kia



ine", the new model has muscular wheel arches, low and wide rocker panels and wide-set alloy wheels on the two upper trim levels. The front end blends into strongly sculpted and dynamic sides which emphasise the car's strength and maturity and give it a premium presence.

Later this year the five-door Picanto will be joined for the first time by a three-door version. Inside there are sophisticated trim materials. The new Picanto comes with revised running gear which gives good ride and handling.

All versions have electronic stability control (ESC), anti-lock brakes (ABS), electronic brake-force distribution (EBD) and emergency brake assist system (BAS).

And should the worst happen, every Picanto has front, side and curtain airbags to cushion heads and torsos against impact.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the Picanto range are: Urban: 42.2 (6.7) - 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban: 62.8 (4.5) - 78.5 (3.6), Combined: 53.3 (5.3) - 67.3 (4.2). CO2 emissions are 125 - 99 g/km.

7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and exclusions. Model shown is 1.25 New Picanto 3 (5 Door) at £11,195 On The Road (OTR). OTR prices include VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic paint is available at an extra cost of £415 (including VAT). Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. *Depending on your mobile phone contract, mobile data charges may apply. If in doubt consult your mobile network provider.

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Representative Example of Conditional Sale** Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Excite 3dr HB SE. 60 monthly payments of **£149.00**. On the road cash price **£12,995.00**. Deposit **£4,055.00**. Amount of credit **£8,940.00**. Interest charges **£0.00**. Arrangement fee **£0.00**. Final credit arrangement fee **£0.00**. Fixed rate of interest **0% pa**. Duration of agreement **60 months**. Total amount payable **£12,995.00**. Representative APR **0.0% APR**

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Why we're so much better off with women behind the wheel



Danger ahead - men are much more likely to be involved in road accidents than women are

MEN are more dangerous than women on the roads, yet more likely to rate themselves confident drivers, according to a new survey.

Men are more likely than women to be involved in crashes because of bad driving habits such as speeding and drink-driving, according to the Institute of Advanced Motorists' research report - Licensed to skill: Contributory factors in road accidents.

Men are nearly twice as likely to be involved in a collision due to carelessness, recklessness or being in a hurry.

They are also more likely to crash because of poor behaviour or inexperience.

The main differences highlighted in the report are:

- Careless, reckless or in a



hurry is recorded more frequently for men (10 per cent) than women (six per cent).

- Travelling too fast for the conditions is recorded more frequently for men (seven per cent)

than women (four per cent).

- Poor driving behaviour or inexperience is recorded more frequently for men (14 per cent)

than women (10 per cent).

Research by the IAM shows that women and men aren't so different when it comes to driving behaviour and attitudes. Most men and women enjoy driving, and rate themselves to be confident, considerate and safe. But almost twice as many men as women claim to be "very confident" drivers.

IAM chief executive Simon Best said: "These results show that we need to look at the psychology of male drivers to reduce risky behaviour and over-confidence, but for both sexes accidents could be easily reduced by improving driver skills and lives could be saved.

The government is moving towards this by introducing driver training for careless driving offences but all drivers should consider training."

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Gardening

Making father's day with gardening gifts

If you're thinking of giving your dad socks or a tie for Father's Day, think again, because there's a plethora of gifts which the green-fingered man in your life will appreciate.

If the shed's his haven, an escape from the household chores, a place he can sit quietly to reflect, then there are a few items which may suit him down to a tee.

If his shed needs a good tidy, treat him to a practical, stylish powder-coated tool rack in racing green with five tool clips plus rawlplugs and screws for fixing (£9.95, Burgon & Ball, www.burgonandball.com). At

least then he won't be tripping over his spades or hoes when he wants to potter in his wooden haven.

You can personalise your gift to your shed-loving dad with a personalised wooden garden sign by Primitive Angel Country Store (£15, www.notonthehighstreet.com, 0845 259 1359). Each hanging is hand-cut, hand-painted then aged and finished off with rusty wire and homespun tie and embellishments. Wording can be changed and there's a choice of colour edging.

Anyone who's ever tired of watering hanging baskets may welcome an easy-to-water alternative, the Polanter, a vertical and modular planting system with carefully positioned holes to allow for year-round planting possibilities. Its real plus,

though, is its internal watering facility. Just attach your hose pipe to it (it has a universal connector at the base) and your watering can be done in seconds.

Available in a range of colours, it can be built into a variety of lengths to suit your requirements (from £21.99, www.polanter.co.uk or phone 0845 619 7266).

Bones

Give your dad a well-earned break by splashing out on an old-fashioned deck chair where he can rest his weary bones after gardening. A stylish leather trimmed deck chair with flag trim (£100) and two Union Jack cushions (£35) are available from Bradleys the Tannery (www.bradleysthetannery.co.uk, 01746 766 653).

No toolkit would be complete without a pocket knife, to cut those awkward branches or even snip a piece of garden twine. Burgon & Ball offers a range of pocket knives and miniature steel presentation sets, with brass handled mini sharpening steel in luxurious presentation box (£37.95, www.burgonandball.com).

For the dad whose shears are always blunt, take the hard work out of pruning with the Bosch ASB 10, 8.1L cordless shrub shear.

Highly manoeuvrable, with virtually no stalling, up to 100 minutes' run time and three hours to charge, it has three blades which are interchangeable and will take the donkey work out of pruning shrubs (£109.99, available from all good garden and DIY shops, www.bosch-garden.co.uk).

Sail new waters on the cress of a wave



Watercress is a simple – and delicious – addition to your garden

The staple addition to egg mayonnaise sandwiches, watercress can also spice up a salad or be used to make a subtle soup – and it's so easy to grow in pots and troughs or a patch of ground in the greenhouse or outdoors.

It can be sown at any time of year in pots on a windowsill, or outside in containers, although seeds may have to be acquired from specialist catalogues.

Alternatively you can root cuttings from bunches bought from the green-grocer, planting the thick bits you'd normally throw away when you trim it before eating.

Keep it moist on the windowsill and soon you should see new shoots appearing.

Tub

The contents of the pot can then be planted into an outdoor tub or into the garden and seedlings which will appear once it is well established can be transplanted to start new bunches.

Watercress needs to be kept well watered and well fed with fertiliser such as chicken manure pellets in the summer, to keep the plants leafy and cut them back regularly so they don't become straggly.

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<p>REDUCED</p> <p>QUINTON STANFIELD ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented traditional style semi detached family residence located on a popular residential road in Quinton comprising reception hall, spacious through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, side utility, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc, private rear garden, full-width tarmac driveway to front. The property also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£167,500</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>OLDBURY ELM CROFT</p> <p>Double-front traditional style semi detached residence in need of some modernisation located within a popular residential road off Oak Road in Oldbury. Accommodation comprises central reception hall, dining room, dual-aspect lounge, breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, master bedroom having walk-through dressing area, modern re-fitted first floor bathroom, rear garden, driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. No upward chain.</p> <p>£162,950</p>	<p>NEW NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON RIDGACRE ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented semi-detached family residence located on a popular road comprising reception hall, downstairs guest WC, two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc, driveway to front with parking for two vehicles and private rear garden. The property also benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing (where specified) and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended. No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£159,995</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>QUINTON OVERDALE ROAD</p> <p>Extended well presented semi-detached family residence located on popular residential road in Quinton comprising enclosed porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, L-shaped fitted kitchen, downstairs, bathroom/wc, four bedrooms, study room, front and rear gardens, off road parking/driveway to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£139,950</p>	<p>NEW NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON BRISTNALL HALL ROAD</p> <p>Extended well presented semi-detached residence located on popular residential road in Oldbury comprising: enclosed porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, extended fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, two bedrooms, additional box room/study, modern first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. The property also benefits from having rear access via the George Road. No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£126,950</p>	<p>NEW NO CHAIN</p> <p>EDGBASTON SELSEY ROAD</p> <p>Well presented end of terraced house that has recently been refurbished situated in Edgbaston comprising reception hall, two reception rooms, modern re fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Viewing is recommended and offering No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£116,995</p>
<p>NEW</p> <p>QUINTON FIRST MEADOW PIECE</p> <p>Delightfully presented spacious three-bedroom mid terraced residence located close to the Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest WC, attractive spacious lounge, spacious fitted breakfast kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom/wc with shower, rear garden with generous patio, integral garage, block paved driveway, double glazing and warm air central heating. Internal viewing is essential.</p> <p>£114,995</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON WARPLE ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented mid terraced residence located on popular residential road in Quinton close to The Tesco's on Ridgacre Road comprising reception hall, through lounge/dining area, modern fitted kitchen, covered side entrance/utility area, three good sized bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Excellent opportunity for first time buyers or investment purchase. Viewing recommended.</p> <p>£114,950</p>	<p>BARTLEY GREEN TRIMPLEY ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented traditional style mid terraced residence comprising reception hall, through lounge/dining area, modern double glazed conservatory, fitted kitchen, covered side entrance/utility area, three good sized bedrooms, modern first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, full width block paved drive way to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. Ideal first time buyers or investment purchase. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£114,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>TIPTON TIVIDALE STREET</p> <p>Well presented modern end of terrace residence ideal property for first time buyers or investment purchase comprising reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, off road parking to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. No upward chain. Viewing recommended.</p> <p>£99,995</p>	<p>REDUCED</p> <p>QUINTON DUFFTON ROAD</p> <p>Traditional style mid terraced residence comprising: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, driveway to the front providing off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified).</p> <p>£79,950</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY BLEAKHOUSE ROAD</p> <p>Spacious unfurnished detached residence comprising: porch, reception hall, understairs WC, lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen, five bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, upstairs shower room, rear garden, driveway to front. The property also benefits from having double glazing and gas central heating. Internal viewing will be needed to appreciate the proportions of this property.</p> <p>£700 PCM</p>
<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY PUMPHOUSE WAY</p> <p>Well presented modern extended semi detached residence located close to the Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest WC, fitted kitchen, dining room, spacious lounge, three bedrooms (master with en-suite shower room/wc), first floor re fitted bathroom/wc with shower, front and side garden, off road parking, rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing.</p> <p>£600 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY ASHES ROAD</p> <p>Well presented and much improved unfurnished end of terrace residence comprising two reception rooms, extended fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc with separate walk-in shower, rear garden, off road parking. The property also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing.</p> <p>£575 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY ASHWOOD CLOSE</p> <p>Delightfully presented modern unfurnished second floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' development built by Bellway Homes comprising reception hall with built-in storage, lounge, modern fitted kitchen with appliances, two double bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc with shower, storage heating, double glazing, internet and allocated parking space. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>QUINTON LOWER WHITE ROAD</p> <p>Well presented semi-detached residence on a popular residential road comprising entrance porch, lounge, fitted kitchen (with built in oven and hob), two bedrooms (master with built in mirror wardrobes), first floor modern shower room, double glazing, storage heating, front and rear gardens, parking to side for up to two cars and alarm. Available for viewings</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY LANGLEY ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented modern end terrace residence comprising entrance porch, lounge, fitted kitchen (with built in oven and hob), two bedrooms (master with built in mirror wardrobes), first floor modern shower room, double glazing, storage heating, front and rear gardens, parking to side for up to two cars and alarm. Available for viewings</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDBURY TITFORD ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented luxury ground floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes. This attractive apartment comprises central reception hall with built-in storage, lounge with open plan fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom/wc with shower. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, security intercom and residents parking. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£500 PCM</p>

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£695 PCM



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£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, MOORFIELD DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Part Central Heating, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Driveway Parking

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, MAYFIELD ROAD

An unfurnished semi-detached home in a well sought after location, briefly comprising of: Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, and Driveway and Garage Parking

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An Unfurnished detached house within a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA ROAD

An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: Four Bedroom, Two Reception Rooms, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking

£575 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MARY MACARTHUR DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local transport and shops, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Cul-de-sac, Parking, Gardens

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An impressive 2nd floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen town centre. Briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Allocating Parking

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, CAVALIER DRIVE

An unfurnished Second floor apartment, with a town centre location. Briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen with Fridge/Freezer, Lounge with patio door to Balcony, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing.

£525 PCM



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A fully refurbished semi-detached home, close to bus routes and motorway access, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Re-Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing where Specified, Off Road Parking for 2 Cars, Medium Sized Rear Garden

£500 PCM



BRIARLEY HILL, WALLAWS ROAD

An unfurnished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, On Road Parking

£500 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished third floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD

A furnished flat, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Warm Air Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Well Kept Communal Gardens, Parking Space, Inspection Recommended

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An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

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NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, on a popular road, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Lounge, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway.

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

Am unfurnished modern first floor apartment briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, MASEFIELD RISE

An unfurnished ground floor flat, in a well sought after location, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Garage En-Block, Rear Garden

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HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

A brand new unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Living Room, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Communal Gardens.

£450 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

An unfurnished flat above shops, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Spacious Living Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking at Rear

£425 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, TERRACE STREET

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Rowley View, Cradley Heath £695

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Balds Lane, Lye £475

A well presented two bedroom property, Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen, Living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property has a large drive way and low maintenance rear garden. Viewing Essential



Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis £595

An exceptional and well presented semi-detached home having the benefit of: Lounge, separate dining room, newly refitted kitchen, conservatory/utility area, good sized garage, three bedrooms, and a refitted bathroom. Gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens. Viewing highly recommended.



Bloomfield Street, Halesowen £550

A modern 2 bedroom house in a popular location. The property comprises of fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, lounge/dining area, bathroom with shower, downstairs toilet and patio area. Allocated parking space. Within walking distance to local amenities and schools. Viewing Essential



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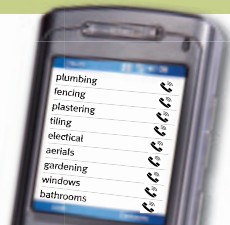
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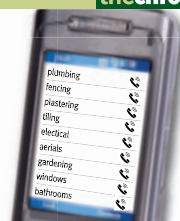
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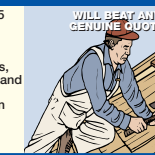
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sport

HIMLEY NARROW GAP ON LEADERS

HIMLEY closed the gap on table-toppers Barnt Green after beating Wellington and the weather.

Stuart Wedge's side were the only top flight winners on a rain interrupted afternoon with their four-wicket victory moving them within four points of the leaders.

Richard Jones took 3-41 to help dismiss Wellington for 166 with Shafiq Ahmed's unbeaten 39 then steering Himley home.

Kidderminster held on for a losing draw against Shrewsbury. Craig Wood (44) and Dan Pyke (41 not out) were the mainstays for Kidderminster as they finished on 174-9 in reply to Shrewsbury's 211-9 - Mark Mansell picking up 4-58.

Worcestershire's Moeen Ali was the star turn as Wolverhampton bagged a winning draw from their clash with fellow Premier Division strugglers Smethwick.

Ali struck a classy 110 to help Wolverhampton to a challenging total of 292-5.

Ali's New Road colleague Aneesh Kapil (50) and stand-in skipper Simon Lycett (48 not out) provided support.

In a rain-affected clash, Smethwick reached 142-4 in reply. Jack Manuel made 45 as Walsall staved off defeat at Moseley, finishing on 140-9 in reply to the home side's 207-8.

Ateeq Javed (71) and Jeet Raval (60) were in the runs as West Bromwich Dartmouth posted 251 against Leamington.

Saved

But Leamington took the winning draw as they made 160-1.

The weather saved Wombourne from probable defeat at Bromsgrove in Division One.

Liam Hughes and Ian Walker struck half-centuries for Wombourne as they posted 241-7, but Bromsgrove were well placed on 174-3 when the rain came. Worcestershire's Alexei Kervezee made a rapid 81.

Old Hill fell just short of victory against Brockhampton.

Nigel Davenport (37) and Carl Whyte (32) made useful contributions as Old Hill scored 232-9.

Zafran Ali then bagged five wickets for Old Hill but Brockhampton survived on 192-9.

Fordhouses bagged a second successive Division Two victory following a tense seven-run win over Water Orton.

An undefeated 74 from Ijaz Yousaf took Ford-

Birmingham and District Cricket

houses to 176-9 before Surinder Sharma (4-45) shone with the ball as Water Orton were bowled out for 169.

Australian Jake Lehman top-scored for Cannock as they had to settle for a losing draw at home to Ombersley.

Lehmann's 51 helped Cannock to 214-6 but Ombersley took the majority of the points as they replied with 206-8.

A stunning individual performance from Chris Pearce powered Brewod to a comprehensive seven-wicket success against Coleshill in Division Three. He bagged 5-52 with the ball as Coleshill were dismissed for 178 and then struck 96 not out to guide his side home.

Crashed

The win left Brewod third in the table, 11 points off top spot.

Penn were rolled out for 88 as they crashed to a 10-wicket defeat at the hands of leaders Barnards Green.

Lichfield had to settle for a winning draw from their clash with Handsworth.

Chris Sarginson hit 47 in Lichfield's 217-9. Gareth James then grabbed four wickets for the visitors but Handsworth (184-9) hung on to deny them victory.

In another clash badly affected by the weather Wednesday claimed a winning draw at Studley due to a faster run rate, finishing on 109-8 in reply to the hosts' 175.

Shining season for Lamp's Villa



Trophy time - Dudley Villa players gather for their end of season awards ceremony with silverware on show

ADUDLEY pub football team is celebrating the end of an incredible season in which it claimed four trophies.

Dudley Villa, based at The Lamp Tavern in High Street, won the Dudley Metro Cup, Kidderminster League Cup, Kidderminster Hospital Cup and Kidderminster Saturday Division One Cup.

Manager and coach Lee Wheeler labelled the team's success a once in a lifetime achievement. "We have a fantastic team playing some great football," he said.

The club is now looking for new sponsors for next season.

Enormous

Lee added: "Success is expensive; we need to raise funds constantly and are looking for additional sponsors."

"The Lamp has given us an enormous financial boost by supplying all our after-match catering, a free venue and use of their main function room for our fundraising."

All four cups were put on display recently when the players held their end of season awards ceremony at The Lamp Tavern.

The pub is run by Batham's and their director Matthew Batham said: "We are very excited to be helping this team."

"The Lamp has been their home for nearly three months now and they have gone from success to success."

Hundred swimmers taking aim at record

SWIMMERS from clubs including Halesowen and Stourbridge are attempting to seize a Guinness world record currently held in Germany.

One hundred swimmers aged from 14-19 will swim 100 metres freestyle in a giant relay.

They are looking to beat the current world mark of one hour, 53 minutes and 13 seconds.

The swimmers take to the water at Wolverhampton's Central Baths on Sunday (June 19) after the

county relay competition.

Wolverhampton City Council has donated the pool time while Worcester County Swimming Association is taking care of the technical support.

Backing

There is also backing for the event from Amros Promotions and Swimrite, which are supplying hats and T-shirts to all the swimmers.

In addition, the record bid has won financial backing from the

West Midlands Amateur Swimming Association. Hi-Profile Custom Extrusions Ltd, Bennett's Farmhouse Ice Cream, Marshfield Farm Ice Cream and Stratford Fine Foods Ltd.

As well as the money coming in, competitors are also hoping to see plenty go out. They are all trying to get sponsorship for their record attempt, with the funds raised split between Midlands Air Ambulance and Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign.

The following clubs are participating: Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Evesham, Haden Hill, Halesowen, Ledbury, Oldbury, Pershore, Redditch, Ross, Stourbridge, Warley Wasps, Worcester and Wyre Forest.

Anyone interested in providing corporate or personal sponsorship should call Neil on 07786 154411 or Sarah on 07860 731602. Alternatively, email neilmonkhouse@hotmail.co.uk or sarah.allin@o2.co.uk

Bowled over by a chance to be active

ONE of Tipton's longest running bowls groups is looking for new participants to join them for a game.

The group hold weekly bowls session for all ages and abilities at Tipton Sports Academy on Wednesday Oak Road.

Sessions take place on Thursdays from 10am until noon, costing £1.55.

Lisa Rashid, Physical Activity Officer for Sandwell Leisure Trust, explained that the sessions have been set up to encourage older people to become more active.

"A lot of people don't realise that an activity such as bowls is considered as a form of physical activity and could add to their recommended 5x30 minutes of exercise per week," she said.

Social

"It's also a great way to meet new people and have fun!"

"There is currently a group of participants who attend from Age Concern that really enjoy the session and combine physical activity with being social and meeting their friends."

For more information visit the website www.slt-leisure.co.uk or call Tipton Sports Academy on 0845 659 4815 and select option five.



Lisa Rashid, right, with bowler Gini Lawrence

Trainee teacher is up for award

A TRAINEE PE teacher at a Sandwell school is in the running for a top award. Elliot Browne, who works at Bristnall Hall Technology College in Oldbury, has been put forward for the Robert Owen Group Co-operative Trainee Teacher Award.

Physical education teacher Browne, who is also a former pupil of the Bristnall Hall Lane school, was nominated by his university tutor for the award.

Miss Philippa Churm, who is assistant head teacher at Bristnall Hall, said: "When you are doing your teacher training your university tutors have to do observations."

Impressed

"They have been so impressed with Elliot that he has been nominated for an award," she added.

"He was a student here himself and a former head boy."

"He will also start a job as a newly qualified teacher here in September."



Elliot Browne has his hands full at school

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettley, Telford on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

Hard work for umpires as rain tumbles down

COMPLICATED timing calculations for umpires were the order of the day in the Worcester Cricket League as rain caused several delayed starts.

But Division One sees Stourbridge asserting themselves as potential champions after five wins in seven completed matches, writes Chris Marsh.

They brushed Worcester aside for 106 and racked up a nine-wicket victory, giving them a 24-point lead over Worcester Nomads.

The Nomads and rock-bottom Redditch endured a frustrating afternoon with the covers on and off numerous times.

Whirlwind

But after Redditch made 153 a whirlwind 129 not out from Liam O'Driscoll, who reached his century in 38 balls, helped the Nomads home in fewer than 15 overs.

Elsewhere Pershore were unable to shift the last Romsley batsman while Bromyard also held up Astwood Bank's progress.

Oldswinford climbed to fourth, beating Droitwich thanks to Tony Brewer's 107 and Pedmore thrashed Bewdley by 167 runs.

In Division Two Colwall and Monmouth both slipped up enabling Hagley to climb to the summit.

Belbroughton beat Malvern thanks to 123 from Geoff Day; Netherton won by one wicket at Kidderminster and Burghill got the better of their draw at Worcester Dominies.

In Division Three Rushwick beat Chaddeley to stay 18 points clear. Alvechurch sit second after a win over Old Vigornians thanks to Jim Clifford's 126. Andy Siwicki's 123 not out was good enough for Stourport to beat Lye, while Enville beat Cookley and Birmingham overcame Himbleton.

In Division Four leaders Tenbury could take only a losing draw and Alveley's win over Martley closed the gap to eight points.

Alveley overtook Stourbridge Social, who drew with Tenbury, while Barnards Green beat Brintons. Himley are fifth thanks to a winning draw at Amblecote and the final game saw Peter Andrews make 104 for Canon Frome who drew at Avoncroft.

Division Five still has Old Hill thirds out in front despite their game at Barnt Green being abandoned at tea. They head Bromsgrove by just six points.

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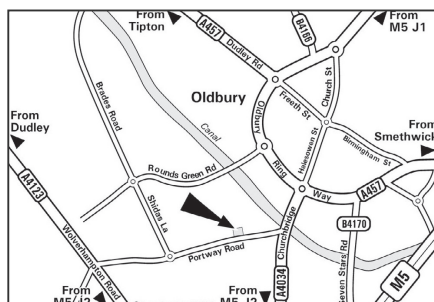
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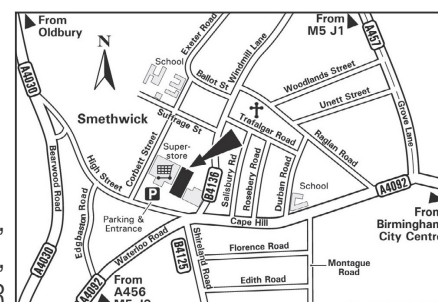
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